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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 ISLAMABAD 017421

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USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE
DCHA/OFDA KISAACS, GGOTTLIEB, MMARK, RTHAYER, BDEEMER
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA
SOUTH ASIA RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM
SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE
DCHA/FFP FOR JONATHAN DWORKEN
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD
BANGKOK FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR TOM DOLAN
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER
ROME PASS FODAG
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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN - EARTHQUAKE: USAID/DART SITUATION REPORT
15: THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED AREAS

Summary

1. With the onset of winter, some Pakistanis living at higher elevations are beginning to relocate temporarily to lower elevations. The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has received reports, however, of people moving not just from the mountains to camps at lower elevations, but also from the camps back up to the mountains. Movement varies by district, as well as by location within the district. This population movement is likely the result of a number of factors, including the need to find food and shelter during the winter months, Government of Pakistan (GOP) payments for earthquake-related losses, seasonal migration patterns, and the lack of basic services in some tent camps. Agencies providing humanitarian aid must structure their programs to take into account population movement. As additional information regarding population movements becomes available, the USAID/DART will adjust funding as necessary. End summary.

Background

2. With the onset of winter, some Pakistanis living at higher elevations are beginning to relocate temporarily to lower elevations. The percentage of the population that relocates for the winter varies throughout the country. The October 8 earthquake has disrupted typical movement patterns this year.

Movements of People within Pakistan

3. The USAID/DART has received reports of people moving not just from the mountains to the camps but also from camps at lower elevations back up to the mountains. Movement varies by district and location within the district. On November 13, a representative of USAID/Pakistan reported that in Mansehra, approximately 90 percent of people from the northern Kaghan Valley intended to leave the valley within the week. However, this pattern is a part of an annual migration pattern, as the winters at elevations in the northern Kaghan Valley are harsh. Approximately 30 percent of people who live in the southern and central Kaghan Valley have already left their homes. In some parts of Mansehra, up to half of the people who left in the aftermath of the earthquake have returned to their homes, and as of November 13, people living in this area continue to return. In the Kala Dhaka Tribal Area, however, less than 5 percent of the population has left their homes as people in this area are essentially self-sufficient and typically do not leave home.

4. A representative of USAID/Pakistan reported that in Batagram tehsil, approximately 10 percent of people living in isolated areas have left for other locations. Most of these people have joined family members elsewhere in Pakistan, and people who have not left have expressed an intention to remain.

5. In Allai tehsil, approximately 10 percent of the population has left for other locations, with most going to

Mehra Tent Camp. A USAID/Pakistan representative reported that as temperatures drop, more people will continue to leave their homes, although it is unlikely that 50 percent of the population in this area will leave, as the GOP military predicts.

Reasons for Population Movements

16. Recent population movement in Pakistan is likely the result of a number of factors, although the most basic reason is to find shelter and food. In addition, some individuals or families are likely moving in order to claim GOP payments for earthquake-related loss. Further, seasonal migration is a traditional coping mechanism of many who live at higher altitudes. The USAID/DART has also observed that in some areas of Pakistan, people living in tent camps have returned to the site of their former homes.

17. GOP Payments for Earthquake-Related Loss: One of the factors affecting Pakistanis' movements is the GOP's commitment to disburse funds to those affected by the earthquake. On November 11, President Musharraf announced that the GOP would immediately disburse 100,000 Pakistani Rupees (PKR), which is approximately USD 1,666, to the next of kin of those who died in the earthquake, PKR 50,000 (USD 833) to people injured in the earthquake, and PKR 25,000 (USD 416) to those whose houses were damaged or destroyed. According to a USAID/Pakistan representative in Mansehra, reports from the field suggest that the GOP's progress with the monetary distributions is mixed.

18. A USAID/Pakistan representative reported that in earthquake-affected areas, district governments have received funds to make payments for deaths of family members. District governments are organizing payment disbursal. Each district government appears to be disbursing funds differently. Among districts, the progress at which disbursal is proceeding varies.

19. As of November 14, Pakistani citizens who lost property in the earthquake had not received compensation. Compensation for the loss of loved ones, however, was being paid in Abbottabad, Mansehra, Batagram, and Shangla. District officials who spoke with USAID claimed that payments will continue until the available GOP funds run out or all victims are compensated.

110. While some people can claim payments in camps, others are required to return to their villages to collect their compensation. In Mansehra and Abbottabad, affected people can file a claim in any union council in the district. Before payment is made, the claim is verified against the record in the union council where the death occurred. In Batagram, people filing a claim must do so in the union council where the death occurred. Officials from Batagram district have stated that they have no way of cross-checking records from offices elsewhere in the district. Payment is particularly complicated for those who have moved from Battgram's Allai Tehsil to Mehra Camp, which is located in the neighboring Shangla district. Shangla claims that it will make immediate payments based on a death certificate issued within the district boundaries that identifies earthquake as the cause of death.

111. Seasonal Migration: The USAID/DART has received numerous reports that people in certain areas of Pakistan, especially Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), have two and sometimes three homes at varying altitudes. This allows them to move to lower altitudes as temperatures drop. The USAID/DART is unable to ascertain the extent to which current movement is part Pakistanis' annual migration patterns.

112. Lack of Basic Services in Tent Camps: The USAID/DART has received reports of individuals in tent camps returning to their home sites, even though the homes were damaged or destroyed. At this time, the USAID/DART cannot definitively ascertain the reason for people's departure from camps to their home sites; however, the USAID/DART believes that this is likely due to lack of water and sanitation, shelter, food, or other basic services in certain camps.

Implications for Relief Efforts

113. Because affected populations continue to be mobile more than a month after the October 8 earthquake, agencies providing humanitarian aid must structure programs to take into account this population movement. The USAID/DART, GOP, and relief organizations are structuring relief efforts around a two-pronged strategy. The USAID/DART, GOP and relief organizations are simultaneously delivering relief commodities to hard-to-reach areas in order to promote shelter in place. At the same time, those providing

humanitarian aid are also attempting to provide basic services to tent camps to encourage people in need of shelter to relocate temporarily to camps.

14. Through the use of its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator from the interagency Humanitarian Information Unit of the State Department, the USAID/DART is also guiding partners to identify and assist areas of the greatest unmet needs. The Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) established by the US military has provided the USAID/DART with maps, indicating areas where earthquake destruction, lack of road access, and population density intersect, which roughly represent areas of greatest unmet needs. Supported by these maps and the GIS coordinator, the USAID/DART is strategically programming resources by guiding NGO partners to target assistance in the areas identified. This critical collaboration among USG agencies and NGOs will enhance the impact and efficiency of USAID/DART program funds.

15. Through funding to its implementing partners, the USAID/DART follows this two-pronged strategy, both providing basic services to tent camps and delivering relief commodities in hard-to-reach areas. The USAID/DART maintains that current programming must focus on supplying those who will stay at higher elevations with shelter or shelter materials, sufficient to protect them against the winter weather. If many of the affected people do come into camps, the USAID/DART will adjust funding and shift program focus to camp situations if necessary. The USAID/DART continues to monitor the movement of people within Pakistan. As additional information becomes available, the USAID/DART will adjust funding accordingly to ensure that assistance reaches affected communities.

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